

OFFICE OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Devens Reserve Forces Training Area

SAFETY BULLETIN

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

31 August 2005

It's that time of the year again. Summer is winding down, Labor Day is just around the corner and kids are going back to school. In fact some local communities have already started, but all schools will be back in session by next week. Did you know that over 22 million children ride to and from school each day in over 350,000 buses? That means that you are more than likely to meet a bus either picking up kids in the morning or dropping them off in the afternoon. So that means, a review of some simple driving tips is in order.

- Be ever vigilant when approaching a school bus stop where children are waiting; kids can be easily distracted and dart into the roadway without checking for on-coming traffic.
- Massachusetts state law requires drivers to stop when approaching a school bus stopped with flashing lights. Do not attempt to pass the bus. Not only are you endangering the life of a child, you are putting yourself in jeopardy with the law. The bus driver **will** take down your license plate number and report it to the local authorities.
- Never drive impaired by alcohol or drugs. Your judgment becomes questionable and you are likely to make bad driving decisions.

While on the subject of child safety, be aware that on 28 August 2004, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey signed a bill into law, which mandates that children under 16 wear a helmet while on their bikes, scooters, skateboards or inline skates. Violations of this law could result in the impounding of said mode of transportation for up to 15 days. This law comes in response to the rising nationwide statistics of children being injured while riding their bikes. It has been reported that each year 40,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for head injuries suffered while bike riding. Don't let your child become a statistic. Buy a helmet and make sure they wear it.

For more information on any safety related topic, stop by the Safety Office located in Room 223, Moore Hall.


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Safety Director

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